

Regional Interagency Executive Committee

333 SW 1st Avenue, P.O. Box 3623
Portland, OR 97208-3623
Website: www.reo.gov

Memorandum

Date: April 21, 2011

To: Regional Interagency Executive Committee (see attached list)

From: /s/ Edward W. Shepard, Chair, Regional Interagency Executive Committee

Subject: Regional Interagency Executive Committee Meeting Notes from
April 12, 2011

This memorandum transmits summary meeting notes from the April 12, 2011 Regional Interagency Executive Committee (RIEC) meeting. Most topics on the April agenda were information updates, reflecting the dynamic nature and uncertainty surrounding many of our most challenging issues.

Communication Plan for 15 Year Monitoring Reports

The new set of monitoring reports serves as a reminder that we have completed 15 years of sustained interagency monitoring under the Northwest Forest Plan – a noteworthy accomplishment for all RIEC agencies. The Forest Service (FS) described the upcoming roll-out of the 15-year monitoring reports and reviewed key dates in the communication plan. A copy of the rollout package (including news release, letters to stakeholders, and related materials) will be provided to each RIEC member prior to formal public release of the documents. In addition, Shandra Terry (FS) will ensure that the roll-out information is distributed to agency Public Affairs Officers at the same time.

RIEC Memorandum of Understanding and Framework Documents

Nearly all signatures have been received. Fully signed copies of both documents will be emailed to RIEC members when they are available.

Follow-up to the Western Oregon Task Force Final Report

On March 31, 2011 the District Court Judge in the Douglas Timber Operators case reinstated the Western Oregon Plan Revisions. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) expects to learn more about the implications of that ruling in the coming weeks. In the meantime, work on the Secretarial pilots is continuing, and BLM is assessing the extent to which tasks listed in the interagency Departmental Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) will be continued. During the discussion, the RIEC indicated that work related to the science review and consultation tasks would be useful regardless of which BLM resource management plan was in place. The RIEC agreed to continue sharing information regarding Washington Office and regional MOU implementation efforts, with the understanding that individual agencies would engage in specific MOU tasks as appropriate. In addition, the RIEC tasked the Senior Managers Group (SMG) to work with the Interagency Coordinating Subcommittee to help resolve key project-level consultation issues.

Next Meeting

The RIEC asked that a conference call be scheduled this summer, followed by an in-person meeting in February or March of 2012. The SMG will propose specific RIEC meeting dates as appropriate in light of ongoing activities and emerging issues. The following potential topics were identified at the meeting:

- Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest proposed plan revision;
- Update on PACFISH/INFISH activities and discussion of long term regional monitoring and plan revisions;
- Relationships between the FS national watershed condition framework and the BLM rapid assessment process;
- Implementation of the interagency Departmental MOU, including information sharing regarding Washington Office and regional efforts; and
- Discussion of agency science needs.

Feel free to let me know if your agency has topics that suggest a need for RIEC discussion prior to our summer conference call. In the meantime, if you have questions or need additional information regarding this memo, please contact Debbie Pietrzak at (503-808-6006) or your REO Representative.

cc: REO reps, SMG

2320/dp,bg,mh

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